

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 37, further comprising the act of receiving, ~~from the computing system,~~ information representing a television signal provider that is to broadcast the one or more television programs to be recorded by the interactive television system, ~~wherein the television signal provider has been selected at the computing system in response to input received at the computing system.~~
4. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 3, further comprising, prior to the act of receiving information representing a television signal provider, the act of transmitting, ~~to the computing system,~~ information identifying a plurality of television signal providers that are capable of broadcasting television programs to the interactive television system.
5. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the server ~~communicates~~ transmits the recording instructions with the computing system through ~~through~~ [[an]]the Internet connection.
6. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the programming schedule includes a time, date and duration of ~~the one or more~~ a plurality of television programs, including the particular television program ~~that are~~ to be recorded.
7. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the programming schedule ~~include~~ includes transmission source information that identifies at least one of a television broadcast channel, a cable channel, and a satellite channel. ~~that enables the interactive television system to tune to one or more signals in which the one or more television programs are encoded.~~

8-14 (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 44, further comprising the acts of:

prior to sending the first request, receiving user input at the computing system selecting a television signal provider associated with a location of the interactive television system; and

transmitting information representing the selection of the television signal provider to the server.

16-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) In a network server that communicates over a network with an interactive television system that includes a computing system and a recording device a recording apparatus that is configured to record television programs, ~~and wherein the interactive television system is connectable by means of the computing system to a server that is connectable to a network,~~ a method for enabling the server to control the recording of one or more selected television programs by the ~~interactive television system~~ recording apparatus, the method comprising the acts of:

storing a programming schedule at a server;

storing recording control information at the server, the recording control information including at least one record command that is transmittable over a network to a recording apparatus that is configured to record television programming;

the server receiving at the server a user request, which is transmitted to the server through the Internet, for a webpage containing from a computing system for a the programming schedule and that identifies one or more television programs, the request being made at the computing system;

in response to the user request, the server providing a user Internet access to the programming schedule in the form of a navigable webpage and from which a particular television program can be selected by the user for recording to the computing system;

receiving, at the server, a user selection of the particular television program to be recorded, an identification provided from the computing system of the selection of the particular television program to be recorded being made from the navigable webpage provided to the user through the Internet one or more television programs to be recorded, the one or more television programs to be recorded having been selected from a display of the programming schedule at the computing system; and

in response to the one or more television programs particular television program being selected identified for recording, the server transmitting downloading recording control information to the recording apparatus over the network, the recording control information comprising recording instructions that are configured to cause the recording apparatus to record the particular television program recording instructions to the interactive television system so and such that the recording device apparatus will thereafter be set up to record the one or more selected television programs particular television program, and wherein the

recording instructions are ~~downloaded~~ transmitted to the recording apparatus from the server through at least one of a television signal and the Internet.

38. (Cancelled).

39. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in ~~claim 38~~ claim 37, wherein the recording apparatus comprises device is a VCR.

40. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the recording instructions include the time, date and duration of the ~~one or more television programs~~ particular television program to be recorded.

41-43. (Cancelled).

44. (Currently Amended) In ~~an interactive television system that includes a computing system and a recording system device~~ that is configured to record television programs, ~~and wherein the interactive television system is connectable by means of the computing system and that is communicably connectable to a server that is connectable to~~ through a network, a method for enabling the server to control the recording of one or more selected television programs by the ~~interactive television system~~ recording system, the method comprising the acts of:

sending, ~~from the computing system,~~ a request from the recording system to the server for a program schedule that identifies television programs that can be received and recorded by the ~~interactive television~~ recording system;

receiving, at the ~~computing~~ recording system, the program schedule from the server through the Internet and in response to the request, the program schedule being provided as a webpage;

displaying, at the ~~computing~~ recording system, the program schedule after it is received from the server;

receiving, at the ~~computing~~ recording system, a user selection ~~of one or more television programs~~ from the program schedule of a particular television program to be recorded;

sending, ~~from the computing system,~~ a request from the recording system to the ~~remote server~~ for the selected ~~one or more~~ and particular television ~~program~~ programs to be recorded;

receiving, at the ~~interactive television~~ recording system, and directly in response to the request for the particular television program ~~one or more television programs~~ to be recorded, recording instructions that will cause the recording ~~device system~~ of the interactive television system to be set up to record the particular television program ~~one or more selected television programs~~, wherein the recording instructions from the server are received by the recording system ~~from the server~~ through at least one of a television signal and the Internet.

45. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 44, wherein the recording instructions include a record command for the recording ~~device~~ system.

46. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 45, wherein the recording system device is includes a VCR.

47. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 44, wherein the recording instructions include at least one of the time, date, duration and tuning instructions corresponding to the ~~one or more television programs~~particular television program to be recorded.

48-49. (Cancelled).

50. (Currently Amended) ~~In an interactive television system that includes a computing system and a recording device that is configured to record television programs, and wherein the interactive television system is connectable by means of the computing system to a server that is connectable to a network,~~ a computer program product comprising:

one or more computer-readable media having computer-executable instructions for implementing a method for enabling ~~the server to control the~~ a server to remotely control recording of one or more television programs that are selected by ~~the computing~~ a recording system and that are recorded by the recording device of the interactive television system, the method including ~~the acts of:~~

~~sending, from the computing system, a request to the server for a program schedule that identifies television programs that can be received by the interactive television system;~~

~~receiving, at the computing system, the program schedule from the server;~~

~~displaying, at the computing system, the program schedule after it is received from the server;~~

~~receiving, at the computing system, a user selection of one or more television programs from the program schedule;~~

~~sending, from the computing system, a request to the remote server for the selected one or more television programs to be recorded;~~

~~receiving, at the interactive television system, and in response to the request for the one or more television programs to be recorded, recording instructions that will cause the recording device of the interactive television system to be set up to record the one or more selected television programs, wherein the recording instructions are received from the server through at least one of a television signal and the Internet~~

a server identifying television programming to record;

the server transmitting stored recording instructions to a recording apparatus through at least one of a television signal or the Internet and that cause the recording apparatus to be programmed to record the television programming.

51-57. (Cancelled)

58. (Currently Amended) ~~In a server that communicates with an interactive television system that includes a computing system and a recording device that is configured to record television programs, and wherein the interactive television system is connectable by means of the computing system to a server that is connectable to a network, a~~ computer program product comprising:

one or more computer-readable media having computer-executable instructions for implementing a method for enabling the server to control the ~~recording of one or more selected television programs by the interactive television system~~ a recording apparatus to be remotely controlled by a server to record television programming, the method comprising the acts of:

~~receiving at the server a request from a computing system for a programming schedule that identifies one or more television programs, the request being made at the computing system;~~

~~in response to the request, the server providing the programming schedule to the computing system;~~

~~receiving at the server an identification provided from the computing system of one or more television programs to be recorded, the one or more television programs to be recorded having been selected from a display of the programming schedule at the computing system ; and~~

~~in response to the one or more television programs being identified for recording, the server, downloading recording instructions to the interactive television system so that the recording device will thereafter be set up to record the one or more selected television programs, wherein the recording instructions are downloaded from the server through at least one of a television signal and the Internet~~

receiving recording instructions from a remote server through a network connection; and

recording television programming in accordance with the recording instructions.

59-63. (Cancelled).

64. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the request for a programming schedule is received at an Internet web site through the use of a conventional Web browser.

65. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the programming schedule is provided through a web page of the server that is customized for the user.

66. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 65, wherein prior to providing the programming schedule, user input is received at the web page identifying a television programming provider.

67. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 76, wherein access to the programming homepage is accessible only after screening a user [[via a]]password.

68. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the recording instructions are embedded in and received with ~~the television program~~ the television signal.

69. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the programming information is made available to the user based on a determination of at least one of a caller ID, area code and phone number of the user.

70. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein ~~appropriate programming information to be sent to the computing system within~~ the programming schedule is based on determining a locality of a user's modem.

71. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 70, wherein the locality of the user's modem is determined according to a caller ID.

72. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 69, wherein the locality of the user's modem is determined according to a phone number.

73. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein subsequent to downloading recording instructions, the server transmits data comprising an end-of VCR control information to the computing system.

74. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 68, wherein the recording instructions are ~~embedded in and received with the television programs by being~~ inserted in special television channel.

75. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 68, wherein the recording instructions are ~~embedded in and received with the television programs by being inserted as a binary~~ ASCII-format character string that is assigned specific control functions.

76. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 37, further comprising:

receiving, at the server, a request from a computing system to access a programming homepage;

in response to the request to access the programming homepage, providing the computing system access to the programming homepage, the programming homepage identifying a plurality of television signal providers;

receiving, at the server, a selection of an appropriate one of the plurality of television signal providers; and

in response to the computing system selecting the appropriate television signal provider, and upon receiving a request from the computing system for a corresponding program schedule, the server providing the programming schedule ~~to the computing system~~.

77. (Cancelled).

78. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 37, wherein the recording instructions are ~~downloaded from the server~~received through the Internet.